

Co-operatives Act 1996

Becoming a member

On the registration of a co-operative, the persons who signed the application for registration become members of the co-operative.

Other persons may be admitted as members of the co-operative as provided by its rules.

A person under the age of 18 may be admitted as a member of the co-operative unless the rules of the co-operative otherwise provide.

A body corporate is not (merely because it is a body corporate) disqualified from being a member of a co-operative unless the co-operative's rules provide that bodies corporate are disqualified from being members (s.64).

Co-operative to provide information to person intending to become a member (s.77)

The board of a co-operative must provide each person intending to become a member of the co-operative with-

- (a) a consolidated copy of the rules of the co-operative; and
- (b) a copy of all special resolutions applicable to the member passed by the members of the co-operative, except special resolutions providing for an alteration of the rules of the co-operative; and
- (c) a copy of the last annual report of the co-operative under section 249.

The board of a non-trading co-operative or, with the consent of the Registrar, the board of a trading co-operative may comply with the above by-

- (a) giving the person intending to become a member notice that the documents referred to in that sub-section may be inspected by the person at the registered office of the co-operative; and
- (b) making those documents available for inspection.

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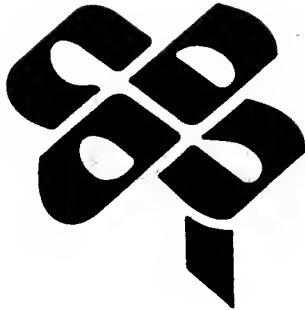
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The Federation strongly recommends that each co-operative obtains its own professional advice to ensure that the specific circumstance of the co-operative are taken into account.



Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd

A co-operative must give to any person intending to become a member written notice of any entry fees or regular subscriptions payable by a member to the co-operative.

A person who becomes a member of the co-operative is not liable to pay any entry fees or regular subscriptions except-

- (a) those fees or subscriptions of which the person was given written notice before becoming a member; and
- (b) any regular subscriptions which may be imposed by any subsequent alteration of the rules and of which the member has been given notice.

Rights of membership not exercisable until registered etc. (s.75)

A member of a co-operative is not entitled to exercise any rights of membership until-

- (a) the member's name appears in the register of members; and
- (b) the member has made any payment to the co-operative in respect of membership or acquired any share or interest that is provided in the rules of the co-operative.

The board of a co-operative must ensure that the name of a person admitted to membership is recorded in the register of members within 28 days after the person is admitted to membership. Penalty: 20 penalty units. □